GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3546
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
POLLUTION BY SPONGE IRON PLANTS
Mohale Shri Punnulal;Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sponge iron plants granted environmental clearance during the last three years, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether some sponge iron plants have not taken adequate steps to prevent air and water pollution in the country including Orissa;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to identify these polluting plants and instruct them to take adequate anti-pollution measures?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) During the last three years environmental clearance has been granted to only one sponge iron plant by M/s Tata Sponge Iron Ltd. located at Joda in Orissa State.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There are in all 78 sponge iron plants in the States of Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Orissa , West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, out of which 19 are in Chhatishgarh, 1 in Madhya Padesh, 2 in Goa, 26 in Orissa, 16 in West Bengal, 4 in Andhra Pradesh and 10 in Jharkhand. These sponge iron plants have provided some air pollution control devices for stack emissions such as electrostatic precipitators or bag filters/wet scrubbing system. For fugitive emissions from raw material and product handling units industries have been asked to provide requisite pollution control system. For water pollution control system, cooling water is recycled through settling tanks and sanitary wastes are disposed through soak pits. However, the pollution control steps taken are not adequate.

(d): The action initiated for control of pollution in sponge iron plants include:

(i) All the sponge iron plants have been directed to install adequate pollution control facilities and comply with the prescribed emission standards.

(ii) Inventorisation of sponge iron units for assessing pollution loads has been carried out;

(iii) A study on development of clean technology and environmental standards for sponge iron industries has been taken up.

(iv) Awareness and training programmes have been launched.